

Appln. No. 10/646,276

Attorney Docket No. 11721-032

II. Remarks

Reconsideration and re-examination of this application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is herein respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 3, 7-15, 17, 18, and 21-33 remain pending.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant acknowledges the examiner's indication that claims 9, 17, and 27 – 33 are allowed. Applicant is accepting the allowed claims in order to put the present application into condition for allowance. Accordingly, claims 1 and 19 have been canceled, dependent claims 2, 3, 5 – 8 and 10 – 15 have been amended to depend from allowed claim 9, and dependent claims 18, and 21 – 26 have been amended to depend from allowed claim 17. It is believed these claims are now in condition for allowance and such action is hereby requested.

Claim Objections

Claims 21-26 were objected to for depending upon cancelled claim 20. These claims have been amended to depend from independent claim 17. Accordingly, this rejection is now moot and should be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-15, 18, 19, and 21-26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,623,032 to Curtis et al.

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AUG 24 2006

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("Curtis") in view of U.S. 2004/0011277 to Barnes et al. ("Barnes") and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 5,154,446 to Blake ("Blake"). Without commenting on the propriety of the above rejection, since independent claims 1 and 19 have been canceled and the associated dependent claims have been amended to depend from allowed claims 9 and 17, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection is now moot and should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present form of the claims are patentably distinguishable over the art of record and that this application is now in condition for allowance. Such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted by,

Dated: 8-24-06

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